GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:404
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2011
OPERATION OF TV CHANNELS
Biju Shri P. K.

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of news and entertainment television channels operational in the country;

(b) the number of news and entertainment television channels set up with Foreign Direct Investment (FDI);

(c) whether the Government has cleared the recommendations made by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to permit for operation of new channels;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the said recommendations are likely to be cleared?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. JATUA)

(a) As on March 31st 2011, 480 satellite television channels were operational in the country in the following category:

	DD channels	Private satellite channels
News & Current Affairs channels	35	230
Non-News & Current Affairs channels	-	215
Total	35	445

(b) In the financial year 2010-2011, 18 private satellite TV channels (4 News and Current Affairs and 14 Non-News and Current Affairs) were permitted with Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

(c), (d) and (e) Government has proposed to amend the Uplinking/Downlinking Guidelines relating to private satellite television channels. A Cabinet note in this regard has been prepared taking into consideration the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) which is under Inter Ministerial Consultation. After obtaining the approval of Cabinet, necessary amendment would be carried out in the guidelines.